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UNCLAS COLOMBO 000697

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

Dept for INL A/S Robert Charles from the Ambassador

Bangkok for ILEA

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [KCRM](#) [PREL](#) [CE](#) [XD](#)

SUBJECT: Access to International Law Enforcement Academy
(ILEA) Resources for South Asia

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

¶1. (SBU) We have heard from your staff in INL that you might visit Sri Lanka late next month, perhaps after inaugurating the new campus of the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok. I would be delighted to see you here. We could put together a program for you highlighting how a mid-size Embassy like this makes excellent use of INL and other USG law enforcement training resources.

¶2. (SBU) In the meantime, I wanted to bring to your attention one way in which we could improve USG efforts to build constructive relationships with law enforcement agencies in South Asia. In previous assignments, I've had exposure to the tremendous courses offered in ILEA in Bangkok. As you know, participation is now limited to Asian member countries. I think it would be a tremendous boon if a way could be found to include our law enforcement friends in South Asia in this worthy training opportunity. We have informally queried other South Asian posts and there appears to be a significant degree of interest.

¶3. (SBU) I understand that about a year ago there was informal discussion of creating a new ILEA for South Asia, perhaps in Maldives, but that there seemed little prospect of finding the necessary funds. A South Asia regional ILEA would be great. Short of that, however, I suggest we explore ways of getting South Asian students into ILEA/Bangkok or one of the other ILEAs in order to begin to establish ties between South Asia and the ILEA concept. I understand that, at present, a limited number of South Asian students could attend ILEA/Bangkok classes as "observers" but that all expenses would have to be borne by either the observers' government or by the U.S. Embassy in that country. This is a welcome gesture but not a long-term option for significant South Asian participation. Of course, I understand that ILEA/Bangkok is a joint endeavor with the Thai government and that any change in procedures might have to be negotiated with them.

¶4. (SBU) I would appreciate your thoughts on this concept and look forward to discussing it and other exciting law enforcement cooperation possibilities if your trip to Sri Lanka pans out.

¶5. (U) Best regards.

¶6. (U) Minimize considered.

LUNSTEAD